HIS 302: Race and Segregation
Course Syllabus

In this course, we will examine the changing ways in which violence and discrimination toward blacks have structured American society in the one hundred and fifty years since the end of slavery. At the same time, we will move beyond the stereotype of blacks simply as victims and we will explore the ways in which black women and men took control of their lives. Throughout the course, we will examine why certain black voices have been excluded from the story of American history and why others have been included. We will attempt to integrate diverse black experiences and perspectives into the main narrative of American history, destroying the segregated history that is itself a product of a history of oppression.

Course Requirements: The requirements for this course include assigned readings for each class, periodic assignments and quizzes on the assigned readings, an eight- to ten-page paper, a mid-term exam, and a final exam. Assignments submitted in class are due at the beginning of the class period. Students who submit assignments after the deadline will be penalized with a grade deduction based on the lateness of the assignment. No assignments will be accepted one week after the due date. All assignments must be submitted in hard copy.

Assigned Readings: There are four books assigned for this class: Eric Foner, Forever Free: The Story of Emancipation and Reconstruction (2005); W. E. B. Du Bois, Souls of Black Folks (1903); Eric Arnesen, ed., Black Protest and the Great Migration: A Brief History with Documents (2003); and Elaine Brown, A Taste of Power: A Black Woman’s Story (1992). Each of these books can be purchased at the University Bookstore or on-line. Additional readings are on Canvas and the internet. The assigned reading list may undergo minor changes; students should be sure to consult the most current and official version of the syllabus on Canvas.

Electronic Devices: The use of laptops, tablets, cellular phones, or any other type of electronic device is prohibited during class. Use of electronic devices will incur grade penalties.

Attendance: Attendance in class is mandatory. The door will close ten minutes after class starts. After ten minutes, students will no longer be admitted to the class and will be considered absent. Each student is allowed two absences. After two unexcused absences, students will receive a zero for participation for that day. The instructor will excuse absences with a doctor’s note or legitimate documentation of other emergencies. After ten absences, students will receive an automatic F.

Late Assignments: All assignments must be submitted in hard copy. Unless otherwise specified on the syllabus, papers are due in class at the beginning of the class period. Students who submit assignments after the deadline will be penalized with a grade deduction based on the lateness of the assignment. No assignments will be accepted one week after the due date. If a student leaves a paper in the professor’s mailbox, it is the student’s responsibility to check that the professor has received the paper.
Plagiarism: The University defines plagiarism as "intentionally or knowingly representing the words of another, as one's own in any academic exercise."¹ (See the University's Academic Integrity Policies for further information.) All sources (books, articles, documents, internet sites, etc.) used in any paper or assignment must be properly cited or will be considered plagiarism. Any instance of plagiarism will receive a zero and will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for appropriate action, including suspension or expulsion from the University.

Final Grade Composition

- Participation 10%
- Assignments 15%
- Movies 10%
- Midterm Exam 20%
- Final Exam 25%
- Paper 20%

Participation: Participation in discussion is mandatory. Students should be prepared to discuss the readings on the day that they are assigned. Attendance alone is not sufficient for full participation credit.

Assignments: Students will be given brief in-class and take-home writing and research assignments based on the assigned readings. Students will also be periodically quizzed on readings and lectures. There will be no make-up assignments in the case of a missed class.

Movies: Students are required to write three two- to three-page movie reviews, the first due on March 1, the second on March 24, and the third on April 17.

Exams: There will be two exams in this class: one midterm exam on March 8 and one final exam on May 10.

Papers: Students are required to write an eight- to ten-page paper based on assigned readings and lectures, due on May 1. All sources in the papers should be properly cited according to the guidelines laid out in The Chicago Manual of Style, which is available online.

Class Schedule

Week 1 (January 18): Introduction

Wednesday: Introduction

Week 2 (January 23, 25): The Struggle for Freedom


Wednesday: Eric Foner, Forever Free, pp. 68-106

¹ http://studentconduct.uncg.edu/policy/academicintegrity/violation/plagiarism/
Week 3 (January 30, February 1): The Rise and Fall of Black Reconstruction

Monday: Eric Foner, *Forever Free*, pp. 107-58


Week 4 (February 6, 8): Solving the “Negro Question”

Monday: Eric Foner, *Forever Free*, pp. 189-224


Week 5 (February 13, 15): Black Life in the New South: Separate and Unequal


Week 6 (February 20, 22): World War I and the Great Migration


Week 7 (February 27, March 1): The Rise of the New Negro


* Movie review on “Rosewood” (1997) due on Wednesday, March 1 *

Week 8 (March 6, March 8): The Politics of Dissent

Around (Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield, 2000), pp. 303-19 on Canvas; Ella Baker and Marvel Cooke, “The Bronx Slave Market” on Canvas

Wednesday: *Mid-Term Exam*

Week 9 (March 13, 15): Spring Break – Class Canceled

Week 10 (March 20, 22): Black Heroes, World War II, and the Double “V” Campaign

Monday: Robin D. G. Kelley, “‘We Are Not What We Seem’: Rethinking Black Working-Class Opposition in the Jim Crow South,” *Journal of American History* 80, no. 1 (June 1993), pp. 75-112 on Canvas; Eric Lott, “Double V, Double-Time: Bebop’s Politics of Style,” *Callaloo*, No. 36 (Summer, 1988), pp. 597-605 on Canvas


*Movie review on “A Soldier’s Story” (1984) due on Friday, March 24*

Week 11 (March 27, 29): Inching Toward Integration


Week 12 (April 3, 5): The “Movement”


Week 13 (April 10, 12): Riots, Radicals, and the Rise of Black Power


Week 14 (April 17, 19): “Chocolate Cities and Vanilla Suburbs”


* Movie review on “Super Fly” (1972) due on Monday, April 17 *


Week 15 (April 24, 26): “Predators,” the War on Drugs, and the Prison-Industrial-Complex


Week 16 (May 1): Reflection and Review

Monday: TBA

* Paper due on Monday, May 1 *

Final Exam

Wednesday, May 10, 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.